

**THE RESOURCES AGENCY OF CALIFORNIA
DEPARTMENT OF FISH AND GAME
WATER PROJECTS BRANCH**

An Historical Review of the
**FISH AND WILDLIFE RESOURCES
OF THE
SAN FRANCISCO BAY AREA**

By
JOHN E. SKINNER

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EDMUND G. BROWN
Governor

WILLIAM E. WARNE, Administrator
The Resources Agency

WALTER T. SHANNON, Director
Department of Fish and Game

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PREFACE

The population of the State of California is increasing at a phenomenal rate with the great mass of newcomers settling near metropolitan centers, of which the San Francisco Bay Area is the second largest in the State.

Natural corollaries of population growth are the need for greater recreational opportunity and additional food supplies, both of which may be satisfied in part by adequate supplies of clean water and fish and wildlife resources. Unfortunately, in the Bay Area, population and industrial growth have brought about tremendous decreases in fish and wildlife habitat through land reclamation, water development projects, and water pollution. Furthermore, the resources have been subjected to a relentless increase in hunting and fishing pressure. Thus, they have suffered a two-fold effect—greater utilization and loss or deterioration of environment.

Water is a prime necessity of any community and its quality directly affects not only such community assets as industry, but also the area's recreational potential in the form of boating, swimming, hunting or fishing, and its esthetic values.

Water appropriation and development projects are occurring everywhere at a tremendous rate. Adequate

protection of fish and wildlife in the face of such development requires ready knowledge and a wealth of background material concerning the resources, as well as an ambitious investigative program to evaluate the effects of proposed water appropriations or developmental projects on the resources. Frequently, considerable data and descriptive information exist but, all too often, these are in obscure or widely scattered places.

The present report represents the author's efforts to assemble in a single volume pertinent information regarding fish and wildlife of the San Francisco Bay Area. It has been compiled in the hope that it will prove informative and useful to those agencies which, through their primary responsibility of guiding water development and quality, also influence the destiny of the fish and wildlife resources. In addition, it is intended that the report will be of service to those agencies and individuals directly responsible for the management and protection of fish and wildlife. Finally, it is hoped that it will serve to inform the interested public of the aesthetic and economic wealth of their fish and wildlife heritage.

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